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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY Germany (Western Zones)

DATE DISTR. 18 Dec. 1950

SUBJECT Speech by the Chief Instructor of the
Land Bavaria KPD Organization

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Karl Horn, chief instructor of the Land Bavaria KPD organization, convened a special conference of Party functionaries in Coburg for 22 June 1950. (1) Horn announced that the importance of the points scheduled for discussion made it imperative that the Coburg Party Secretariat assume full responsibility for attendance by all functionaries concerned. The Secretariat in Coburg was not informed of this until 21 June 1950 and had only 24 hours for the necessary preparations. The back room of the Meschenbacher Bierhalle was chosen as the conference room and the functionaries of the Communist rural locals were picked up by car.

2. Horn, who appeared in Coburg one-half hour prior to the beginning of the conference, severely reprimanded Hans Glass, secretary of the KPD Coburg Kreisleitung, for having chosen a restaurant for this conference. (2) He pointed out that this was imprudent, since it would be impossible to insure that only reliable KPD functionaries hear the discussions held at the meeting. [REDACTED] was planned to hold a second conference.

3. The main conference was attended by 52 functionaries. In addition to Horn and Glass, Max Kuss, chairman of the Coburg KPD organization, H. Dreiersdorf, district (sic) delegate of the Coburg Party organization, and Josef Rygus, chairman of the Communist factory groups in Coburg, attended the confidential meeting in Glass's home. (3)

4. The following presents the essential parts of the speeches [REDACTED]

- a. I have just come from a conference of the chief Party instructors for Western Germany, at which the new missions for the KPD in Western Germany were revealed. (4) This conference has an important bearing on the course to be pursued in all our future Party activities. This course not only requires the utmost concentration of all energies but also demands a thorough review of both our methods and the aim of our work.

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- b. In view of the international situation, we must reckon every day with the outbreak of another war. Our primary mission henceforth is to work for the preservation of peace under the leadership of the U.S.S.R. I have observed that most of our party members have not realized the danger of a new war or that they do not take this danger seriously enough. This is a disgrace to our entire party organization. Unless we realize at once the gravity of the situation and act accordingly, we may have to pay a heavy price for this carelessness. When I present the danger of a new war in such a vivid manner you must believe me. Both the KPD and the German Democratic Republic are employing their most alert men to study and report the measures taken by the warmongers in Western Germany, and the U.S.S.R. has its observers posted in the strongholds of the warmongers.
- c. The situation is grave and requires that we take the appropriate measures. The KPD, as the only factor working for peace in Western Germany, will have to assume enormous responsibilities. We must guarantee the preservation of peace by our efforts otherwise the whole of Germany will be lost. What is to be done? First, we shall have to revise the basic methods used in our struggle. We must take the offensive, i.e., we must not allow ourselves to be confused by anything and must accomplish our missions.
- d. The collection of signatures for the petition demanding the prescription of the atomic bomb must continue with the utmost energy. The leadership of our party organizations, beginning at the locals and extending to the district (sic) executive boards, must be re-elected as soon as possible. Active and resolute young Party comrades must be chosen for these posts and the Party leadership must remove older men who feel bound to obsolete traditions. This measure is necessary, since it will enable us to continue our struggle for peace in the event that we are forced underground. It is possible that we shall have to dissolve the Party and go underground on our own initiative, if we cannot continue as a legal party.
- e. You will now understand why, for some time, we have been conducting such a ruthless fight against informants and enemies of the Party. We cannot permit the existence of unreliable elements in our ranks, if we wish to accomplish our future tasks. In this respect, we must apply the old Marxian principle that it is better to hurt an innocent man than to show mercy to a guilty one in a spirit of mistaken tolerance. All who do not unconditionally side with the U.S.S.R. will have to be removed from the party, for the reliability of a Party member can best be judged by his attitude toward the U.S.S.R.
- f. As a matter of principle, we no longer conduct drives for new Party members. New applications for membership must be screened most carefully. The peace movement must be given our primary attention, for this movement henceforth will assume the former role of the KPD as a mass organization. It is imperative that peace committees be founded in the factories, in order to enable us to spread our influence among non-Communists.
- g. Campaigning in factories must be considered the most important mission of the future. We must know the type and volume of all products produced in every plant in Western Germany. This applies particularly to all metallurgical and chemical plants. In order to accomplish this, it may be necessary to release the most efficient functionaries from their responsibilities in the Communist Party locals in order to make them available for work in the factories.

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- h. If there is any doubt concerning the purpose of a product, a group of men will be put to work to learn the purpose of the product concerned.
- i. This vigilance must be applied not only in factories, but also at ports, Autobahnen and maneuver areas; it must also cover preparations for the demolition of special targets.
- j. We shall of course continue to fight for the liberation of the workers, for the unification of Germany, and for the withdrawal of the western occupation troops from our fatherland. However, all this would be senseless if we did not give first priority to our active struggle for peace. Because of the danger of a new war, all election campaigns will be of secondary importance although, they will, of course, have to be conducted.
- k. Thus I have made you familiar with our future missions. We shall be successful in this struggle only if we reorganize our party leadership, so that all executive boards will be capable of speedy and independent action at a given time.

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